

companies of the 23rd Battalion. Later, Colonel Patton was ordered to detach these companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry under Captain John K. Thompson. Colonel George S. Patton commanded Echols Brigade. The 22nd Virginia went into action with five hundred and fifty strong, losing one hundred and thirteen in killed, wounded and missing. The 23rd Virginia Battalion, three hundred and fifty strong, lost sixty-one in killed, wounded and missing.

Three companies of the 22nd under Captain Thompson, one hundred and twenty-five strong, lost nine killed, thirty wounded, twelve missing. Battle ended at 4 P. M.

#### Report of Maj. Wm. Blessing, 23rd Virginia Battalion

"When the fighting became very severe I was ordered to march with six companies to the support of Captain Marshall, who, with one hundred and twenty-five dismounted cavalry, was being forced back on the left.

"We were then forced back to a fence at the Bloody Angle. We were then reinforced by three companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one dismounted company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry.

#### Report of Col. Thompson

Colonel Thompson, 19th Virginia Cavalry, says that he sent one hundred cavalry under command of Captain Marshall, the command consisting of the 19th and 20th Virginia Cavalry just then, Major Blessing commanding Dennings Battery, consisting of three hundred men, he having deployed his men on the right of the line formed by Captain Marshall.

#### Report of Col. W. Wiley, 20th Virginia Cavalry

Says that about 2 P. M. we were attacked by the 2nd, 3rd and 5th West Virginia Mounted Infantry.

#### Report of Col. Milton J. Ferguson

Colonel Ferguson, 16th Virginia Cavalry, says that he reported to General Echols on the 5th of November, who was then on the march, and arrived at the camp of Colonel Jackson at the eastern base of Droop Mountain, at 6 A. M. on the morning of the 6th. One squadron of the 14th Regiment was ordered to take position on the

old road of Locust Creek. The efficient men of six companies were dismounted, four companies placed on extreme left under command of Lieutenant Colonel Gibson and two companies in center. John D. Baxter, orderly sergeant of Company F, 10th West Virginia Infantry, was the first one to cross the rail fence at the bloody angle, and fell mortally wounded inside the enemy's lines.

### Letters Bearing Upon the Battle

Brownsville, Fayette County,  
Pennsylvania.

November 16, 1927.

DEAR SIR:

I saw your inquiry about Colonel Schoonmaker of Pittsburgh, in the *National Tribune* for the week of November 11. In reply I would inform you that he is dead. He died October 11th, eighty-six years of age. He died from the effects of an operation for appendicitis. I was with Colonel Schoonmaker in the Battle of Droop Mountain in the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Company E.

GEORGE W. ARISON.

#### Report of Col. Thompson

Chapel, W. Va., July 12, 1927.

DEAR SIR AND COMRADE:

I do not feel that I have health or the strength to meet you at the Droop Mountain Battlefield next week, much as I would love to. I hope you will be able to properly locate the field. If you could find some Confederate soldiers that were in the fight or native citizens who were acquainted might be helpful. As I remember the enemy were stationed in line of battle and we advanced on them. They soon left the patch, as I remember, during the hottest part of the fight. I was near the head of the Company where we joined Company A. Sergeant of Company A—I can't think of his name now—was killed near my side. Wheeler, Milt Rollyson and others were wounded near about the same time. When the enemy fled the company and regiment that were able followed in pursuit, I think, to Lewisburg. I confess that I was more concerned in what was going on than in noting the lay of the land. Please excuse the rambling. Hope you succeed.

Respectfully,

HENRY BENDER.



Coffeeville, Kansas, March 5, 1927.

DEAR SIR AND COMRADE:

Your letter just to hand having been forwarded to me from Chapel. My recollection of the Droop Mountain Battle is indefinite. I think both regiments marched up the same road until near the summit, the 28th in the lead, near the top filed to the left until both regiments were the same distance on the mountain, when we faced and marched toward the enemy and soon found them. Our formation was Companies A, F, D, and C, after which I am not sure, only Company B was the extreme left. I do not remember any troops on our right. I am only guessing from my recollection, the engagement began not later than 10 A. M. and ended by noon, or before. I do not remember that there was a skirmish line. I always thought our company struck the most formidable point in the enemy's line. I would love to go over the field but do not now feel that I will be able. Anything I can do will be cheerfully done. With best wishes.

HENRY BENDER.

NOTE: Captain Bender was mistaken as to the time that the battle ended.

Progress, W. Va., April 20, 1927.

DEAR MR. SUTTON:

Your letter received the 19th inst.

The battle of Droop Mountain begun about 10 o'clock A. M. and lasted about one hour, as well as I remember.

I belonged to Company F, 10th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry. My position battle ranks. General William Jackson's troops were in front, and I do not remember about the skirmish line. Ninety-two prisoners were captured, and do not know the number killed.

My health will not permit my attending a meeting of the committee.

Very truly yours,

I. G. ENGEL.

NOTE: He was mistaken as to the length of the engagement.

Cottageville, W. Va., May 9, 1927.

MY DEAR OLD FRIEND:

I received your letter some time ago and was certainly glad to



OFFICERS OF 27th WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTED INFANTRY, LATER CHANGED TO 7th WEST VIRGINIA CAVALRY



DRUOP MOUNTAIN COMMISSION REPORT

from you. I would have answered sooner but my health is very poor and I have been ill for several weeks. Now, as I am feeling better, I will try and write a few lines, giving you the information desired.

We camped, as you will remember, in front of Joe Beard's at the foot of Droop Mountain. The next morning at dawn we broke camp and started across the fields toward a low gap in the mountain, in hope of gaining the pike behind the Confederates, on the west side of the mountain. We were led by Austin Brown, Ike Brown and Mose Stillely, former residents of that locality. Before reaching the low gap on top of the mountain we ran into the Confederates in the woods. The battle now begins, it being about ten o'clock. The 10th West Virginia was in front, followed by the 28th Ohio. When we struck the Confederates we faced south. The battle raged along the top of the mountain southward.

I was wounded near the pike, 60 or 80 yards distance from it, at the close of the battle. The Confederate, who shot me was already wounded and was resting on a log. He shot me as I was on my way to try and disarm him. The other boys were wounded between the low gap and the place where the pike crosses the mountain. The battle ceased sometime between twelve and one o'clock. The dead and wounded were carried away to Joe Beard's home, where they had erected a temporary hospital.

I am the only 10th West Virginia soldier left in Jackson County. Are W. F. and Silas Morrison still living?

I was glad to hear that Captain Bender was still alive, and pleased to know that you are well and strong. I have always felt indebted to you for saving my life on Bolivar Heights. As regards my family, we are all well, my children are scattered, some being in Ohio and some in West Virginia, while my eldest son lives in Florida. I would like to see you once more and talk over our old war days. Come over to Cottageville with Eugene Slaughter sometime. Drive over from Sutton. My faith is clear and strong in Christ and for a home in Heaven.

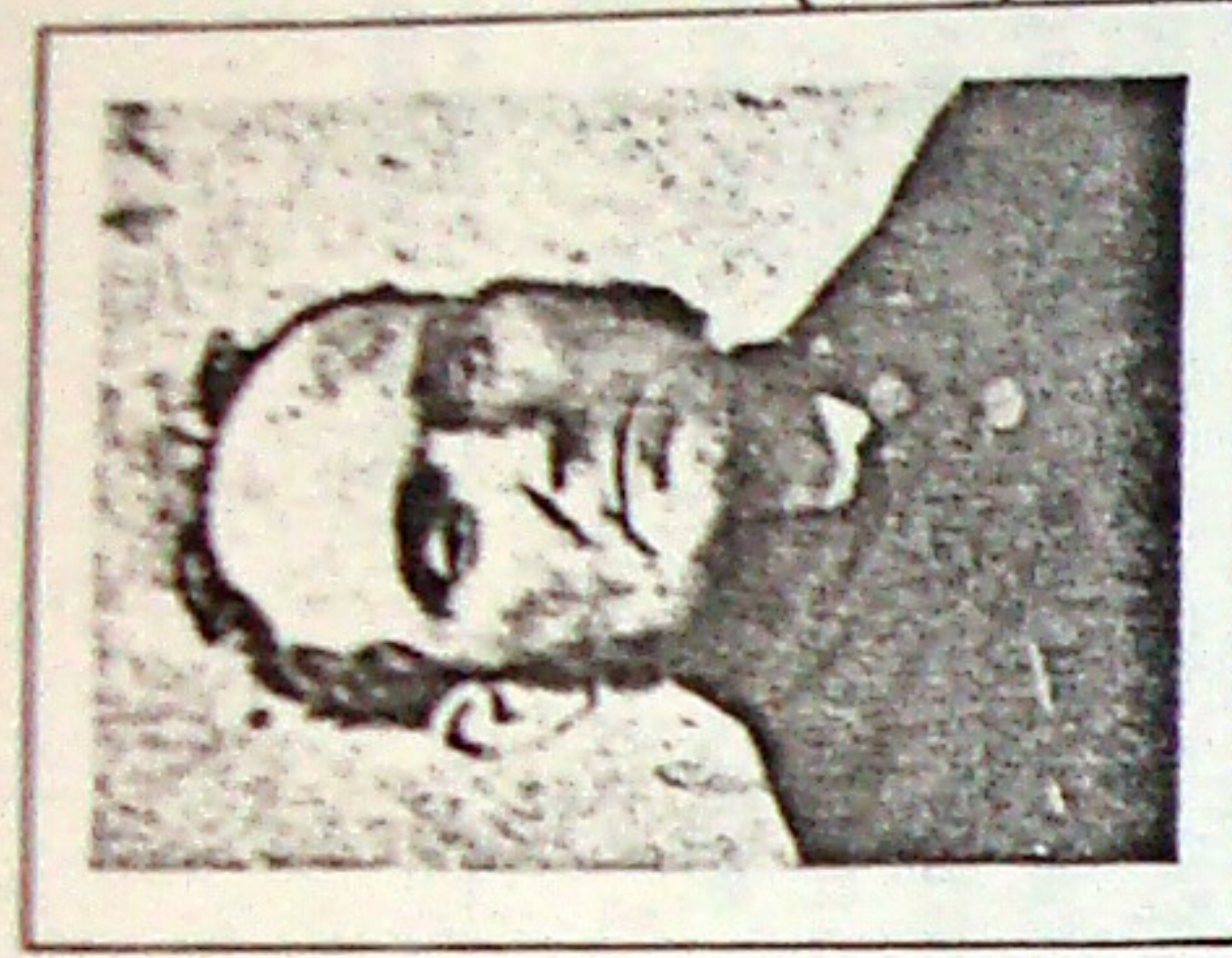
Write me soon again. Best regards to you and family.

Your old comrade,

JOHN A. BLAGG.

Note: The 28th Ohio was formed in line of battle and was engaged with the enemy when the 10th West Virginia came up. See Colonel Moor's official report.

SOME PARTICIPANTS IN THE BATTLE OF DRUOP MOUNTAIN



A. W. GREGG  
CHAPLAIN  
8TH W. VA. MTD. INFANTRY



HENRY H. WITHERS  
MAJOR  
10TH W. VA. INFANTRY



JOHN D. SUTTON  
CO. F, 10TH W. VA. INFANTRY



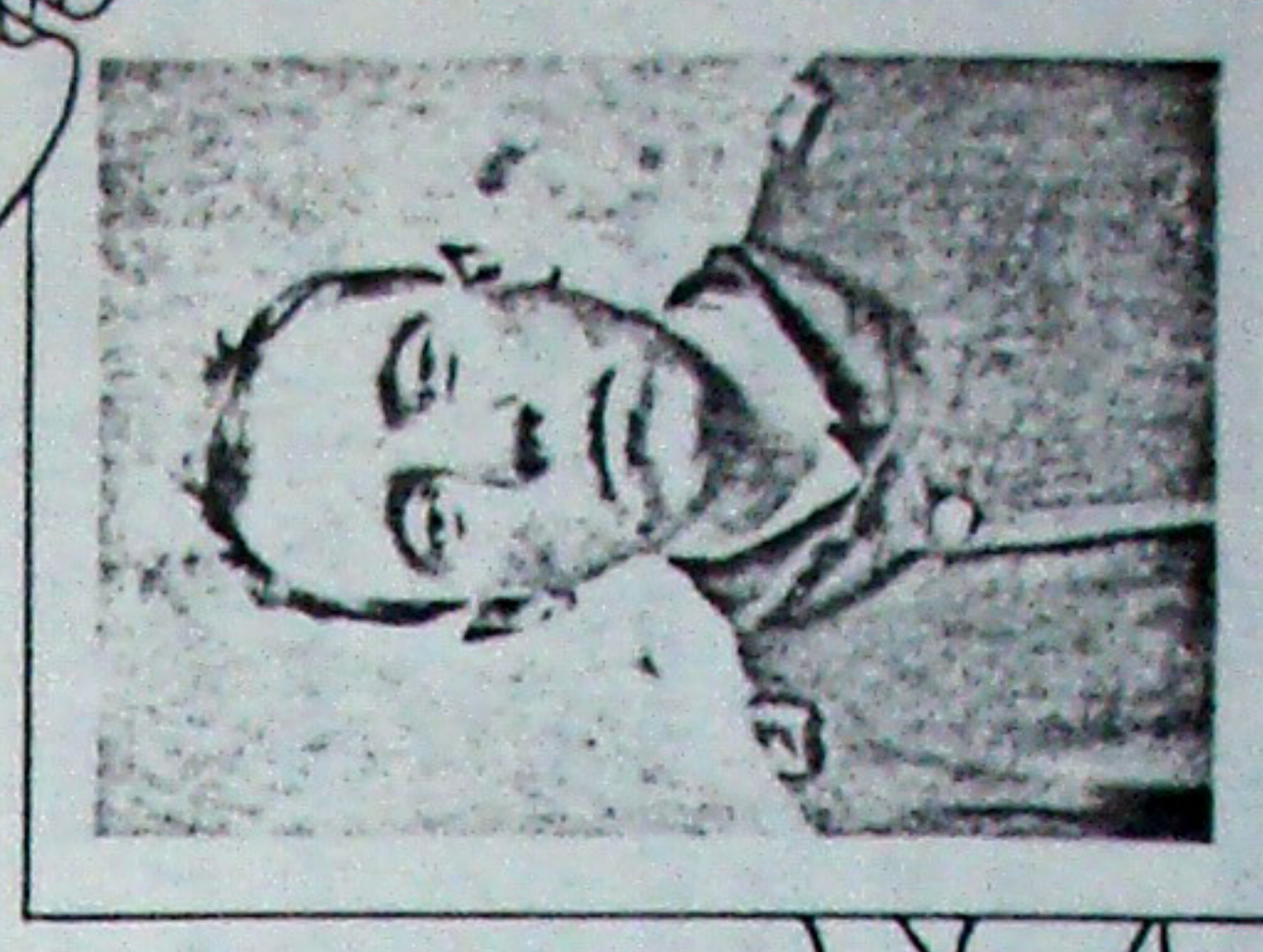
JOHN D. BAXTER  
ORDERLY SGT.  
CO. F, 10TH W. VA. INF.  
FELL LEADING  
LAST CHARGE



LIEUT. HENRY BENDER  
CO. F, 10TH W. VA.  
PROMOTED TO  
CAPTAIN  
FOR GALLANT



C. W. ANGEL  
1ST. LIEUT. CO. M  
8TH W. VA. MTD. INFANTRY



J. E. SWAAR  
2ND LIEUT. CO. G  
8TH W. VA. MTD. INFANTRY



Brownsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

DEAR SIR AND COMRADE:

I see by the *National Tribune* where you inquire for information of my old comrade who was in the Battle of Droop Mountain, I was in that battle.

I belonged to the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry. The 14th Pennsylvania and the 2nd Virginia, 28th Ohio, Ewing's Battery of 1st Virginia Artillery, the 10th Virginia were sent around to the right to come in the rear of the fort. The brigade was dismounted at the foot of the mountain and we had orders to lay down and wait for orders.

I belonged to Company E, 14th Pennsylvania, and was wounded in my right arm, August 7, 1864, from which there is four inches of the bone removed. I am 81 years old, went to service when I was 16 years old. Was wounded at Moorefield, Virginia, also at Mt. Jackson, Virginia, in my finger.

GEORGE W. ARISON.

Soldiers Home Hospital, July 14, 1927.

DEAR SIR AND COMRADE:

I see in the *National Tribune* that you wished to get in communication with some survivor of the Battle of Droop Mountain. I was a member of the 10th West Virginia Regiment Infantry and took part in that battle. We were on the right wing of our forces and soon as we located the enemy in thick timber we charged and routed them without any casualties on our part, but with heavy loss to the enemy. Until we came to an open space where the timber had been cut down. There we received a galling fire, and lost a number of men, all from one volley. We then took shelter behind logs and timber, and that is where Sergeant Bird Curry lost his life. We then deployed to the right and routed the Johnnies, and that ended the battle.

Yours truly,

L. S. CLOTHIER,  
Co. A, 10th West Virginia Infantry.

MY DEAR MR. SUTTON:

I will try and answer you at this late date, as I was away at the arrival of your letter, but will now try to do so.

In the morning of the 6th of November, as the day of the battle,

early in the morning, the Union army began to move on the Southern army in the levels near hills below, that is coming down from Marlinton. They moved down very early. Pop shooting began about 8 o'clock. Jackson moved his besieged back up on the crown of the Droop, and at about 10 o'clock, skirmishing began, very lively, beginning on the eastern face of the Droop, continuing around southward near the Locust Creek Mill and also north to the Black Mountain. General Echols arrived with his force from the direction of Lewisburg, between 8 and 9 o'clock, and Colonel Cochran near the same time, with the 14th Virginia Cavalry. General Echols with most of his men occupied the southern part of the mountain, but Derricks Battalion was placed on the north of the left wing of W. L. Jackson, and the 14th Cavalry was placed on the main top of the main mountain near the turnpike in rear of the artillery. General Jackson's artillery was placed north of the turnpike. His line of battle continued from the turnpike northward around to Hills Creek, including the line of Derricks skirmishers, as stated commenced at about 1 o'clock. Fighting fiercer and fiercer began in earnest and ended at or near 4 or 4:30 in the evening.

General Averell moved his men very near the top of Droop, the men were surprised, but I was not. I told the General but I was too late with the news. That is why I was there in the charge to call Colonel Derrick to fall back. I lost my horse by it, and was captured to boot, but got away before they got off the mountain. I belonged to Company B, 26th Virginia Cavalry, W. L. Jackson's Brigade. I was a courier and then knew nearly all the southern lines of battle.

The regiments in front of the center, east of Droop Mountain, that I knew was there was the 14th Pennsylvania, the 8th and 16th Cavalry, the 10th West Virginia and 28th Ohio. Those two regiments done the heavy part of the fighting. All lines that I come in contact with that day had skirmish lines. As to prisoners caught on either side, I don't remember. But there was forty captured when I was. I might be able to be present and attend a meeting of the Committee at some time this year, I can't just say.

You must be light on considering or criticising my pencil scratching, as my eyes are very bad.

Yours respectfully,

MILTON BUTCHER.

NOTES The bones of the horse have been discovered.